availability specially fuel-wood and fodder. So far (up to 31.3.2000), various Projects for the development of 23.81 lakhs ha. of area have been sanctioned under the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) of this Department. A sum of Rs. 431.87 crores has been released up to 31.7.2000 for implementation of these projects.

(e) The Wastelands Development Projects have long gestation period and yield tangible as well as intangible benefits to Community and Environment at large. They lead to increase in production of bio-mass including food, fuel-wood and fodder, recharge of water table, reduction in sedimentation rate, improvement in soil health and generation of employment at large. It is, herefore, difficult to quantify these benefits in exact monetary terms.

(f) In order to provide more thrust on developmet of wastelands, all the Area Development Programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development have been brought under a single Department namely the Department of Land Resources. Allocation of Plan funds for these Programmes have been enhanced from Rs. 281.00 crores in 1999-2000 to Rs. 824.00 crores during 2000-2001. The State Governments have been requested to formulate the perspective plans for development of wastelands.

Assistance to weavers for accommodation/workshop

† l228. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any fund for providing economic assistance in order to improve the accommodation facilities for the handloom weavers as also their workshop;

(e) if so, when this fund was launched and the amount accumulated in this fund at present;

(e) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to grant rupees 12.45 crores for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the amount granted to each State in this regard?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No such fund has been set up. However, Government of India has been implementing the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme since 1985-86 for providing workshed/workshed-cum-housing for Handloom Weavers.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, a sum of Rs. 1245.00 lakhs was released under the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme to various State Governments during the year 1999-2000 as per the statement given below:

SI. No.	Name of the State	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	340.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	72.08
3.	Assam	59.18
4.	Himachal Pradesh	22.93
5.	Maharashtra	0.95
6.	Manipur	127.50
7.	Nagaland	150.00
8.	Orissa	180.00
9.	Rajasthan	92.24
10.	Tamil Nadu	199.92
	Total	1245.00